

Hiawatha Corridor LRT

Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota

(November 2002)

Description

Metro Transit and the Metropolitan Council (local Metropolitan Planning Organization), in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), are constructing an 11.6-mile Light Rail Transit (LRT) line within the Hiawatha Corridor. The LRT line will operate on the Hiawatha Avenue/Trunk Highway 55 Corridor linking downtown Minneapolis, the Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) International Airport, and the Mall of America (MOA) in Bloomington.

The project includes a 1.5-mile tunnel under the MSP airport runways and taxiways, 26 light rail vehicles, and a total of 17 stations, with 12 stations on the Hiawatha Corridor, three stations in Bloomington and a station serving the Mall of America. The project expects to serve 24,800 average weekday boardings by 2020.

The total project cost under Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$675.42 million. The Section 5309 New Starts funding share for this project is \$334.28 million.

Status

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), including a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor, was completed in February 1985. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved Metro Transit to initiate Preliminary Engineering in January 1999. In August 1999, Metro Transit completed a re-evaluation of the 1985 FEIS. In April 2000, FTA issued a ROD on the re-evaluation of the 1985 FEIS. In the same month, the Federal Aviation Administration also issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environmental Assessment for the project. FTA approved the Hiawatha Corridor project's entry into Final Design in April 2000. FTA and the Metropolitan Council entered into a FFGA in January 2001, with a revenue operations date scheduled for December 2004. This design-build project is under construction and is approximately 55 percent complete.

Section 3030(a)(91) of TEA-21 authorizes the "Twin Cities – Transitway Corridors" for Final Design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$168.36 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds for the "Twin Cities Transitways" project, which includes the Hiawatha Corridor light rail project.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars		
<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funding (million)</u>	<u>Appropriations to Date</u>
Federal: Section 5309 New Starts FFGA Commitment Flexible Funds	\$334.30 \$ 49.50	\$168.36 million appropriated through FY 2002
State: Minnesota Legislature	\$120.10	
Local: Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority	\$ 84.20	
Subtotal (Federal Project):	\$588.10	
Metropolitan Airports Commission	\$ 87.00	
TOTAL	\$675.40	

NOTE: Total may not add due to rounding.

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